



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# USAID Public Policy E-Bulletin

## **JANUARY 2012 – THE USAID PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM SUPPORTS CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE VICTIMS LAW AND THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL PLAN FOR ASSISTANCE AND REPARATIONS**

During the second half of 2011, the USAID Public Policy Program supported the development of the Victims Comprehensive Assistance and Reparations Plan. The draft Plan was discussed in seven Regional Forums in Bogotá, Medellín, Cali, Bucaramanga, Manizales and Santa Marta, as well as in additional workshops with victims and human rights NGOs with over 1000 participants. In addition, the Public Policy Program supported the development of an online consultation tool that stored close to 8000 comments from victims and other citizens.

On December 20th, President Juan Manuel Santos issued Decrees 4800 and 4801—the first regulatory decrees of the Victims' Law. Decree 4800 establishes measures to provide comprehensive assistance and reparations to victims of the internal armed conflict. Decree 4801 establishes the Land Restitution Unit's Structure, responsible for investigating cases, collecting evidence and passing this onto restitution judges who will try each case. This Unit will be responsible for addressing 160,000 cases by 2014. The USAID Public Policy Program experts provided technical support to define their content and structure. Both decrees represent a deep public policy innovation, as they are the first institutional reform tools available to guarantee victims' rights and facilitate restitution.

The next challenge in terms of the Victims' Law implementation is to issue the CONPES document which will formally adopt the National Plan for Comprehensive Assistance and Reparations. The USAID Public Policy Program will facilitate this process by supporting government institutions in defining this public policy, its goals, indicators, detailed budget, timeframe and responsible actors. The Program will guarantee a participatory process involving all relevant actors. This document will govern GOC actions in the implementation of the Victims' Law and will layout specific instruments to provide assistance, restitution and reparations, in areas such as housing, food assistance, land restitution, rehabilitation and income generation.